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Description Notes

CHARTER OF NEW VETERANS ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH-RELATED EFFECTS OF HERBICIDES

B. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITY:

It has recently been brought to light that enormous quantities of herbicidal chemicals were used during the Vietnam War and that there is a possibility that large numbers of Americans, many of whom now qualify as veterans, may have encountered these chemicals to an extent that long range significant health problems may have been initiated. There is considerable controversy in the published literature and it is probable that much information remains unpublished. The Veterans Administration has not previously been required to resolve toxicological issues of such a complex and highly controversial nature. The committee will, therefore, assemble and analyze the information which the Veterans Administration needs in order to formulate appropriate medical policy and procedures in the interests of the involved veterans. The Committee will have an entirely fact-finding and advisory role and will not be required to develop policy. The Committee will adhere to all the provisions of U. S. Public Law #92-463, 5 U.S.C. App. I, Executive Order #11769 and Presidential Circular #A-63, of March 27, 1974 and subsequent applicable revisions.

C. PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE COMMITTEE PURPOSE:

It is anticipated that the Committee may achieve its objectives within twelve calendar months. If an extension of time is needed, this will be properly negotiated.

D. AGENCY OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Committee will report to the Chief Medical Director through the Assistant Chief Medical Director for Professional Services.

E. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT:

Veterans Administration Department of Medicine and Surgery.

F. DESCRIPTION OF FUNCTIONS:

The committee holds quarterly sessions at the Veterans Administration Central Office in accordance with an appropriate schedule of dates set at preceding meetings. A structured agenda is followed. Members are asked to prepare special presentations

and gather categories of data uniquely accessible to them. All members state their views fully and explicitly and support these with documentation as needed. The views of individuals with differing opinions are recorded. Testimony is obtained from knowledgeable persons. Meetings are open to the public except when, in the discretion of the Chairman, the privacy of individuals, who may come under discussion, may be infringed. Members of the public may direct questions to the chairman in writing and submit prepared statements for review by the committee. At the discretion of the Chairman, such members of the public may be asked to clarify such submitted material prior to consideration by the committee. The committee maintains summary minutes of its findings and develops conclusions and interim reports for consideration by the staff of the Veterans Administration. The committee maintains liaison with all other federal agencies which have knowledge of and expertise in toxicology of chemical substances which may be pertinent to the herbicide issue.

G. MEMBERSHIP:

Members of the committee include experts delegated by the other federal agencies, non-federal experts including toxicologists and physicians from industry, universities, and chartered veterans groups. Selected staff of the Veterans Administration Central Office serve ex officio on the committee. The Chairman is a toxicologist staff member of the Medical Service.

H. ESTIMATED OPERATING COSTS:

Dollars: \$5000.00
Man days: 300

I. NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:

The committee meets quarterly for one half day per session.

J. TERMINATION DATE:

One year from the date of the first meeting, unless there is reason to extend the life of the committee on a quarterly basis.

K. REMUNERATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Federal Employees:	None
Others :	Consulting Fees and Expenses per 5 U.S.C. 5703
Volunteers :	Service on the committee sans remuneration is acceptable.

L. DATE CHARTER WAS FILED:

September 20, 1978.

APPROVED:

ACMD FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR
SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

ADMINISTRATOR
SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____